In response to that Office Action, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 124 and 134-136 to read as follows. A marked-up copy of the amended claims, showing the changes made thereto, is attached. Applicant has also included below the non-amended claims.

a storage medium for storing information for a plurality of outline points of a pattern, wherein the information for each of the outline points includes coordinate values of the outline point, a plurality of vector data corresponding to a plurality of weight value ranges, each of the vector data indicating a movement track of the outline point according to a change of a weight value within a corresponding weight value range, and a weight value at which the vector data change;

an acquiring unit, arranged for acquiring a vector datum corresponding to an input weight value from said storage medium based on the weight value at which the vector data change, for each outline point; and

a calculation unit, arranged for calculating coordinate data of each outline point of a pattern to be output, based on the input weight value and the vector data acquired by said acquiring unit.

125. The apparatus according to claim 124, further comprising a sending unit for sending the coordinate data calculated by said calculation unit.

- 126. The apparatus according to claim 124, wherein the pattern is a character pattern.
- 127. The apparatus according to claim 124, wherein said storing medium stores a plurality of weight values at which vector data change.

128. The apparatus according to claim 124, wherein the plurality of vector data includes vector data indicating a straight line and vector data indicating a curve of second or higher degree.

- 129. The apparatus according to claim 124, further comprising an output unit for outputting a pattern formed based on the coordinate data calculated by said calculation unit.
- 130. The apparatus according to claim 129, wherein said output unit includes a printer.
- 131. The apparatus according to claim 124, wherein said calculation unit operates on vector data.
- 132. The apparatus according to claim 124, wherein said storage unit stores degree information indicating degree of a function of vector data.
 - 133. The apparatus according to claim 129, wherein said degree

- 3 -

information includes an information indicating that coordinate data is constant regardless of the change of weight value.

of:

accessing a memory which stores information for a plurality of outline points of a pattern, wherein the information for each of the outline points includes coordinate values of the outline point, a plurality of vector data corresponding to a plurality of weight value ranges, each of the vector data indicating a movement track of the outline point according to a change of a weight value within a corresponding weight value range, and a weight value at which the vector data change;

acquiring a vector datum corresponding to an input weight value based on the weight value at which the vector data change, for each outline point, by accessing the memory; and

based on the input weight value and the vector data acquired in the acquiring step.

135. (Amended) A computer program product having a computer readable medium comprising a computer program for forming an outline, the computer program comprising code for performing the steps of:

storing information for a plurality of outline points of a pattern, wherein the information for each of the outline points includes coordinate values of the outline point, a plurality of vector data corresponding to a plurality of weight value ranges, each of the vector data indicating a movement track of the outline point according to a change of a



weight value within a corresponding weight value range, and a weight value at which the vector data change;

acquiring a vector datum corresponding to an input weight value based on the weight value at which the vector data change for each outline point; and calculating coordinate data of each outline point of a pattern to be output, based on the input weight value and the vector data acquired in said acquiring step.

136. (Amended) A computer readable medium comprising a computer program for forming an outline, the computer program comprising code for performing the steps of:

storing information for a plurality of outline points of a pattern, wherein the information for each of the outline points includes coordinate values of the outline point, a plurality of vector data corresponding to a plurality of weight value ranges, each of the vector data indicating a movement track of the outline point according to a change of a weight value within a corresponding weight value range, and a weight value at which the vector data change;

acquiring a vector datum corresponding to an input weight value based on the weight value at which the vector data change for each outline point; and

calculating coordinate data of each outline point of a pattern to be output, based on the input weight value and the vector data acquired in said acquiring step.

- 5 -